

caused the chairman and secretary of that committee to be expelled, and refused, as above stated, to submit the difference to unbiased arbitrators. They also passed the law for doubling the subscription: These extreme measures put an end to all hopes; but too late, the council paid for legal advice as to their power of calling for the double subscription for that year, and were obliged to abandon it. They had already agreed to absorb the club (an anomalous adjunct to the institute) assets, liabilities, and stock, into the society, and they were soon obliged to borrow 100*l.* to carry on the establishment. These measures were resorted to without communicating with the members at large, or mentioning them until the close of the year. Notwithstanding the lengthened attempts of the finance committee to clear up the accounts, they were obliged to place them in the hands of an accountant, who, for six pounds, made out a balance sheet. This was received, and ordered to be printed at a general meeting; and though unadmitted, considered by the treasurer as still more authentic than an audit; and last week the auditors were directed to commence their examination, not from the beginning of the year, but from the conclusion of that accountant's statement. Then, for the first time, it was discovered that this important document was neither signed nor dated, having no date to determine the period of its close. Indeed, after all the trouble to set them right, they were nearly in the same state of confusion in 1847 as in 1845: not even a cash-book was kept. It is hoped, that doubling the subscription will set all to right; as if it was easier to collect accumulated arrears by adding another guinea. And amid all this, members of council claim an allowance of refreshments when employed in committees, a great encouragement to late hours, little business, and good appetites. When will our artists acquire noble aspirations, and learn that good sense and knowledge are the fit companions to genius, even in its most exalted flights to pure ethereal regions? That good feeling towards each other, and due respect for all men of intellectual pursuits, without exclusive jealousy, is required to gain them a position so amiable and educated men. Let them shew less rancour for past differences. A little conciliatory amenity would do the institute more service than unwarrantably placing an odious stigma on opponents. Revenge usually belongs to savages and brutes,—good-will towards a powerful rival always ensures esteem. Even now they should submit their differences to impartial arbitrators, afford every advantage and respect to gentlemen of different acquirements, from whom they have fully as much to learn as they can impart; and if the alterations in the society cause some of us to separate, let us rather regret than rejoice at the parting. The social character has so nearly superseded the intellectual, that one, more like various societies for the promotion of science, might be established with perfect good will. Emulation might then replace jealous animosity, and, instead of violent expulsions, give rise to cordial invitations. Surely, in so age so remarkable for improvements, artists cannot long resist the many calls on their better sense, their real interests, and generous feelings.

I remain, Sir, &c.,
GEOFFREY FOSCOE.
March 2nd, 1847.

ENCAUSTIC TILES.—Encaustic tiles, as many are, doubtless, aware, consist of a fictile material, made into forms of about 6 inches square, into the surface of which, while still in a soft state, were pressed metal dies, upon which a pattern was worked in relief: the ornament being thus indented, the intaglio, or indentation, was filled up with clay of a different colour. The tile was then baked, and covered with a vitreous glaze. This art obtained universally in England from about 1300 to 1500; and was again revived in 1830, when a patent was taken out for the manufacture of similar tiles: since which period, the revival has been carried out on a large scale by many manufacturers. They are sometimes improperly designated Norman tiles: the manufacture was carried on more extensively in England than in any other country.

INTER-MURAL BURIALS.—Government have prepared a bill to prohibit the further interment of corpses in the churchyards of large towns and populous districts.

SEA WALLS.

At a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on the 2nd instant, the comparative advantages and disadvantages of vertical and sloping sea walls were discussed, and instances were given of the effect of seas upon the former, when walls of a certain batter, or curved face, were surmounted by an overhanging coping, of such extent as to deflect the curling wave outwards, and throw it back upon itself, rather than allow it to fall bodily inwards, as in the case of the Penmaenmawr wall. The manner in which the waves were driven up long slopes, acquiring force as they travelled along, was contrasted with this. On the other hand, the action of the various kinds of waves was shown upon sections of the beach at Madras, where the surf was so notoriously bad, and where it appeared, that by the cleaving off of the waves, the beach was washed away into natural steps, of a level, and then a small slope of 45°. A breakwater had been formed off that beach, by throwing in loose masses of rock, forming their own slope; this, when carried up to within 10 feet of the water level, stood well.

In Knockree Sound the same effect of the drawback of the waves was noticed. Sections of the mole of Venice were shown. That mole, which is nearly sixteen miles in extent, had a section of a sloped foreshore, with a nearly vertical wall, then a slope at another angle, and above high-water mark another nearly vertical wall. When the seas rolled in upon the mole, they partially curled over against the first wall, and were projected with augmented force against the upper one. The consequence was, that the mole was partially destroyed; and in the repairs, which had been executing for some time past, it had been reduced to one uniform sloped face, at an angle of about 15°. The destruction of the nearly vertical walls of Portpatrick was also noticed. Those walls, although constructed of the finest Anglesea lime-stone, well dressed, dovetailed, and tied down vertically and horizontally by iron chain-bonds, were completely overthrown, and, until the thickness of the wall was increased to 80 feet of solid material, it could not be made to stand. The situation was extremely exposed, and the sea frequently sprang 50 feet above the top of the lighthouse, which was itself 60 feet above the level of high water of spring tides.

The causes of the peculiar action of the drawback of the waves, as exemplified by the removed shingle from the beach when the wind was on shore, and its accumulation when the wind blew off shore, were also discussed, and it appeared to be the received opinion that in these cases, the upper part of the waves being acted upon by the wind, a peculiar rolling motion in a counter direction was imparted to the lower wave, which acted upon the shingle in the manner alluded to. This action appeared, however, only to extend to a depth of about 9 feet, which it seemed to be agreed was the ultimate depth of detrimental action of all waves. The effect of advanced groynes in protecting sea walls was exemplified by the concrete walls at Brighton and Dover, which were intended merely for retaining walls, and such was the effect of the groynes, that since they had been put down, the shingle had accumulated to such an extent, that the sea did not approach injuriously to within 100 feet of the base.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—The American editor who memorialised Congress for an appropriation for the construction of a line of telegraphic wires across the Atlantic, "proposes to carry the necessary wire on board a number of steam-ships, and to run it off from a spool in the wake of one of the steamers. He thinks the wire, of its own weight, will sink down to a point where, from the solidity of the water, it will remain in suspension, being, at the same time, below the line of travel of the monsters of the deep and the action of the currents of the sea." The idea, however startling and preposterous, has not now the merit of entire novelty, as it was started at least a twelvemonth since.

STATUE OF REMBRANDT.—We learn from Amsterdam that a colossal statue of Rembrandt has been modelled by Roijer, a young Dutch sculptor, and is about to be cast in bronze and set up in that city. Our informant speaks well of it.

THE STONE AND TIMBER OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE deserving efforts lately made by the New Zealand Company, to introduce into this country the ornamental woods of the colony, and to which we have already drawn attention, reminds us, that the vast extent of New South Wales conceals equal, if not superior resources for our national industry and art. We have come to know, that there grow in the latter country more than 150 species of *Eucalyptus*, many not branching off but at a height of 60 feet; some of those called in the colony *blue bark* will doubtless be of superior use in many respects. The genera *Callerym*, *Callycoma*, &c., conceal wood of a superior description for either building or ornamental purposes, while *iron wood* (*Casuarina*), forests of which are scattered over the whole extent of New Holland, yields a timber of an indestructible character. Transgressing from these vegetable riches to the mineral, we shall find them still more promising. Not to mention the gold, lead, and copper of South Australia—structural and ornamental minerals abound in New South Wales; as for instance the *marbles* of the county of Argyle, which are of five or six various colours and designs. But, if this country should ever require huge monolith columns and pilasters of sienite, porphyry, or granite—there they are, at a short distance from Two-fold Bay: whole mountains and tracts of mountains, out of which slabs and blocks of tremendous size could be easily cut. A collection of specimens of the kind, made by us, has been acquired by the trustees of the British Museum, and is to be found in their collections. An attempt was made some years since, to ship sand from Sydney for making glass! We hope, however, that at the industrial exhibition of the British Empire (when we have it), our colonists in Australia, and elsewhere will send us also samples of their structural products.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE question of the rebuilding or altering of the Worcester City Prison has been referred to a committee. The cost of a new prison has been estimated at 7,000*l.*; but the present jail cost nearly 20,000*l.* The question of the proposed new corn-market has also been referred to a committee.—The new church lately erected in the parish of Quarry Bank, Staffordshire, was consecrated on Tuesday week. It is said to be a spacious structure, with seats mostly free.—The propriety of lighting Stratford and Westham with gas is to be forthwith submitted to a vestry meeting. Most of the thoroughfares of the extensive parish of Westham, it seems, is even without the ordinary street oil-lamps, while a rate of one penny a pound would be sufficient to light the whole with gas.—The contract for building the cheese market-house, &c., at Melksham, was taken yesterday by Mr. Jones, of Bradford, for 2,448*l.* The works are to be completed in six months.—The inhabitants of Scarborough have determined to have the price of their gas reduced.—We some time since slightly adverted on the impropriety of the Hull Water-works Company assuming the functions of the medical faculty, by a wholesale administration of those aperient and other sulphates and chlorides, which form the saline solution of the ocean. An occasional dose of these would have probably done little harm, but a determined course of such ultra-alteratives, persevered in down to the present moment, is more than we were prepared to anticipate, and comes to be a serious matter. It appears indeed, in fact it was chemically demonstrated on Monday week, in course of an instructive and appropriate lecture, on "Common salt and the salt mines of Cheshire," by Mr. William Sharp, F.R.S., delivered to the Hall Literary and Philosophical Society,—that the inhabitants of Hull have no less than two tons of sea salt administered to them through the water-works every day—at least that this tolerable quantity had been incidentally prescribed to the community on the day before the lecture. A "warm discussion" ensued on this "interesting" announcement.—The New Water Company at Sunderland have taken possession of the works of the old company. The post-office there is to be altered and made more commodious. A strike